



TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

Town Hall — Fairfield, Conn.

FAIRFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Adam Klyver, Chairman
Historic District Commission
725 Old Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

September 21, 2023

Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Connecticut Siting Council's Docket #516 - United Illuminating's Proposal

Dear Executive Director Bachman and Members of the Siting Council:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to United Illuminating's (UI) proposal outlined in Docket #516. The proposed replacement of the existing 115-kV powerlines situated atop the catenary structures along the Metro North Railroad tracks with monopoles ranging in height from 95 to 145 feet above ground within the Southport historic district raises grave concerns about the preservation of our community's heritage and its impact on the local environment.

The Southport historic district holds a unique and cherished place in our town's history. Its architectural charm, cultural significance, and historical character make it a living testament to our past. Residents and visitors alike take pride in its well-preserved streetscapes, which are filled with structures that embody the architectural styles of bygone eras. These historical assets are not merely buildings; they are an integral part of our identity and cultural heritage. The proposed monopoles, looming high above, would irreparably mar the character of this historic district, casting a long shadow over its legacy.

Residents of the Historic Districts are required to get approval from the Historic District Commission (HDC) during a public hearing for any changes in appearance or changes in materials to their homes. Some items that are considered inappropriate include Belgium block curbing, tree lighting and synthetic building materials, so the introduction of monopoles,



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towering well above the existing structures, would be considered inappropriate and incongruous by the HDC. It is essential to recognize that the preservation of our historic districts is not just about maintaining the past; it is about ensuring the quality of life and the economic vitality of our community in the present and future.

Furthermore, the potential environmental impact of this proposal cannot be understated. The construction and operation of such monopoles may have adverse effects on local wildlife and ecosystems. We must carefully consider the consequences of introducing structures of this magnitude into an environment that has evolved harmoniously with the existing infrastructure for decades.

I implore the Connecticut Siting Council to take these concerns into account and reconsider the approval of UI's proposal in its current form. Alternative solutions, such as underground cabling or less intrusive methods, should be explored to mitigate the visual and environmental impact on the Southport historic district.

Preserving our history and maintaining the unique character of the Southport historic district should be paramount in our decision-making process. I respectfully request that the Connecticut Siting Council conduct a thorough review of this proposal, engaging with the community and local historic preservation experts to ensure that any changes made respect our shared heritage and values.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the Connecticut Siting Council will carefully consider the concerns expressed by the residents of Southport and take the necessary steps to protect the historical and environmental integrity of our beloved community.

Sincerely,

Adam Klyver
Chairman, Town of Fairfield Historic District Commission